

Message Text

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ACTION ERDA-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AS-01 ERDE-00 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-15 SAM-01 OES-05 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00

XMB-04 /110 W

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R 091855Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7978

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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DEPT PASS ERDA FOR NELSON SIEVERING

BRUSSELS PASS ERDA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH ENRG

SUBJECT: BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON FOREIGN ENERGY

PROGRAMS

REF: 75 STATE 301432

1. THIS MESSAGE REPLIES TO ENERGY POLICY ITEMS I B AND II B IN REFTEL TO MEET JANUARY 15 DEADLINE. COMPLETE REPLY TO REFTEL WILL FOLLOW IN AIRGRAM. COPIES WILL BE SEPARATELY MAILED TO KRATZER AND SIEVERING TO MEET JANUARY 30 DEADLINE.

2. THE UK ENERGY R AND D BUDGET GIVES AN OVERALL PERSPECTIVE ON AREAS OF EMPHASIS AND CHANGES WHICH HAVE RECENTLY OCCURRED. THE UK FISCAL YEAR RUNS FROM APRIL 1
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TO MARCH 31. YEAR TO YEAR DOLLAR COMPARISONS ARE NOT

EASY BECAUSE MF RECENT HIGH UK INFLATION RATE AND CHANGES OF DOLLAR/POUND EXCHANGE RATE. IN FOLLOWING BUDGET DATA, 74-75 ACTUAL FIGURES ARE CONVERTED AT ONE POUND EQUALS U.S. \$2.35, WHEREAS 75-76 BUDGET ESTIMATES ARE BASED ON SEPTEMBER 1975 PRICES AND ARE CONVERTED AT 2.15 RATE.

3. BUDGET

UK DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY BUDGETS FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AS FOLLOWS (UNITS, MILLION DOLLARS):

74-75 75-76 (ESTIMATED)

0.4	1.0	ASSESSMENT, NEW ENERGY SOURCES
9.1	15.2	OFFSHORE ENERGY TECHNOLOGY
15.3	31.2	NATIONAL COAL BOARD
21.1	27.8	BRITISH GAS CORPORATION
67.0	77.2	ELECTRICITY COUNCIL AND BOARDS
199.0	245.9	NUCLEAR

311.9 398.3 TOTALS

IT IS THE STATED POLICY OF THE DEPARTMENT TO HOLD THE ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION R AND D EXPENDITURES ESSENTIALLY CONSTANT IN REAL TERMS FROM 74-75 TO 75-76 FISCAL PERIOD. THE CHANGE FOR ELECTRICITY SHOWN ABOVE, APPROXIMATELY 15 PERCENT, THUS REPRESENTS THE ESTIMATED INFLATION FACTOR IN DOLLAR TERMS. ON THIS BASIS THE OVERALL BUDGET INCREASE OF 28 PERCENT CAN BE DIVIDED INTO A 15 PERCENT INFLATIONARY COMPONENT AND A 13 PERCENT REAL INCREASE.

4. R AND D PRIORITIES AND RECENT CHANGES

NEW ENERGY SOURCES

NO MAJOR RESEARCH PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN INITIATED BECAUSE THE DEPARTMENT IS CURRENTLY ASSESSING PROSPECTS FOR SOLAR, WIND POWER, TIDAL AND WAVE POWER, AND GEOTHERMAL POWER. MOST ATTRACTIVE PROSPECT IS JUDGED TO BE WAVE ENERGY. A NATIONAL PROGRAM IN THIS AREA WILL PROBABLY BE FUNDED IN 76-77 FISCAL YEAR. GEOTHERMAL DRILLING PRO- UNCLASSIFIED

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GRAMS WILL ALSO GET UNDERWAY IN 1976.

OFFSHORE ENERGY TECHNOLOGY

SO FAR MOST OF THE TECHNOLOGY HAS BEEN SUPPLIED BY THE PRIVATE US AND UK OIL COMPANIES. THE UK GOVERNMENT R AND D COMMITMENT IS RELATIVELY SMALL, BUT GROWING FAST. THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY CONTRACTS OUT MOST OF THE WORK TO OTHER GOVERNMENT LABORATORIES. THE WORK IN-

CLUDES DIVING RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT OF NOVEL SEA PLATFORMS, SEABED STABILITY STUDIES, NEW MATERIALS FOR MARINE CONSTRUCTION, NEW UNDERSEA OIL PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES, PIPELINE MONITORING, ENVIRONMENTAL DATA COLLECTION, OCEANOGRAPHY AND UNDERSEA GEOLOGY. MOST OF THESE PROGRAMS PARTICIPATE IN THE 53 PERCENT REAL EXPANSION OF THIS RESEARCH FIELD.

NATIONAL COAL BOARD

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THE MAIN THRUST OF COAL BOARD RESEARCH IS TOWARDS INCREASED AUTOMATION IN COAL PRODUCTION. THEY ARE CARRYING OUT A MAJOR EXPANSION OF THE MINING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT LABORATORY. NEW PROGRAMS INCLUDE THE APPLICATION OF COMPUTER CONTROL TO UNDERGROUND MINING EQUIPMENT, BETTER UNDERGROUND COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT AND NEW

METHODS OF GENERATING, TRANSMITTING AND ANALYSING OPERATIONAL DATA. MOST OF THE BUDGET INCREASE GOES TO AUTOMATION.

NCB ALSO CARRIES OUT RESEARCH ON COAL UTILIZATION AND CONVERSION TECHNIQUES, INCLUDING FLUIDIZED BED COMBUSTION AND COAL LIQUEFACTION. IN THESE AREAS THEY HAVE ENCOURAGED COOPERATIVE RESEARCH WITH EUROPEAN AND US COMPANIES AND RECEIVE A GREAT DEAL OF EXTERNAL SUPPORT FOR THEIR WORK.

BRITISH GAS CORPORATION
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THE RESEARCH PROGRAM IS CONCERNED WITH IMPROVING THE PRODUCTION, TRANSMISSION AND UTILIZATION OF GAS. THE CORPORATION IS WORKING ON HIGH PRESSURE, FIXED BED COAL GASIFICATION AND THE PRODUCTION OF SNG USING CATALYTIC AND HYDROGENATION PROCESSES. TRANSMISSION WORK IS MAINLY CONCERNED WITH PIPELINE SAFETY, ON-LINE INSPECTION, MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY AND FRACTURE MECHANICS. UTILIZATION RESEARCH IS FOCUSED ON FUEL-SAVING BURNER SYSTEMS. THERE ARE NO OBVIOUS MAJOR CHANGES IN EMPHASIS.

ELECTRICITY COUNCIL AND BOARDS

THIS RESEARCH PROGRAM WILL REMAIN STEADY IN REAL TERMS BETWEEN FISCAL YEARS. THE RESEARCH FOCUSES HEAVILY ON ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION FROM NUCLEAR AND FOSSIL FUELS, HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION, ADVANCED STORAGE BATTERIES AND HEAT PUMPS. THE ONLY MAJOR CHANGE IN EMPHASIS IS A SHIFT OF THE NUCLEAR WORK TOWARDS THE STEAM GENERATING HEAVY WATER REACTOR,

NUCLEAR

THE UKAEA "IN HOUSE" PROGRAM OF NUCLEAR R&D WILL COST APPROXIMATELY 181 MILLION DOLLARS IN FISCAL 75-76. THIS FIGURE IS ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED IN REAL TERMS FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR. THE FAST BREEDER REACTOR WILL BE THE MAJOR ITEM OF EXPENDITURE, AT ROUGHLY 114 MILLION DOLLARS. OTHER MAJOR PROGRAMS INCLUDE AGR, SGHWR, FUSION AND NUCLEAR SAFETY RESEARCH. AN IMPORTANT CHANGE OF EMPHASIS IS THAT WORK ON THE HTR (DRAGON PROJECT) HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED AND MAY BE TERMINATED IN 1976. APPROXIMATELY 65 MILLION DOLLARS WILL BE SPENT ON OUTSIDE NUCLEAR CONTRACT WORK IN 75-76. THIS IS A SUBSTANTIAL JUMP, ALMOST DOUBLE THE AMOUNT SPENT IN THE PREVIOUS FISCAL YEAR. IT OCCURS MAINLY IN TWO AREAS, CONTRACTS SUPPLIED TO THE NUCLEAR POWER COMPANY FOR DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF A 660 MEGAWATT SGHWR PROTOTYPE AND AN EXPANSION OF NUCLEAR FUEL PROCESSING RESEARCH FOR BRITISH NUCLEAR FUEL LTD.

5. THE DATE FOR THIS REPORT WERE PROVIDED BY THE UK
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY.

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